

MAKING OUT IN ♂ IN ♀ ARABIC

From everyday conversation to the
language of love—a guide to
Arabic as it's really spoken!

by Fethi Mansouri

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Introduction

Making Out in Arabic is your passport to the living, breathing, colorful language spoken on the streets of the Arab world and the Middle East. It is the first book to give you access to the casual, unbuttoned Arabic that will allow you to express yourself in restaurants, cafes, and nightclubs, in crowded market places, and at train stations. Here you will find the warm-hearted language that you can use with friends, and also the rough-and-tumble language you can fall back on when you are ready for a fight.

Making Out in Arabic will be a useful companion throughout the Arab world – even when traveling in the furthest outbacks. So you want to meet people, make friends, eat out, go dancing, or just take part in friendly chitchat? A quick glance at *Making Out in Arabic* and you'll have the language at your fingertips.

PRONUNCIATION

Consonants

The imitated pronunciation should be read as if it were English. The emphatic consonants *d* and *t*, *s* and *z* represent more a question of volume than a separate sound.

th is pronounced like **th** in **three**;

dh is pronounced like **th** in **there**.

kh is pronounced like **ch** in Scottish **loch**;

gh is the voiced equivalent.

A few sounds do not exist in English, such as the uvular stop (q), which is pronounced like a "k" in the back of one's throat; a glottal stop (ʔ), an abrupt, momentary cutting off of air followed by an explosive release and the pharyngeal fricatives both voiced (ʕ) and voiceless (ħ). A voiced pharyngeal fricative is produced by forcing air through a narrow channel in the

back of the throat with vibrations at one's vocal chords while a voiceless one is produced in the same manner without vibrations at the vocal chords. To check if a sound is voiced, place your fingers on your throat and feel the vibrations.

Vowels

There are three basic short vowels in Arabic and three long ones. These are:

- a as in cat
- aa as in far
- i as in pin
- ii as in clean
- u as in put
- uu as in noon

Stress

Arabic words do not have a stress accent in the way that English ones do. However, individual consonants can exhibit stress by means of doubling. For example, in the word **kassara** "to break," the double s indicates consonantal stress as in the English name "Cassandra."

PRONOUNS

The following are the main Arabic personal pronouns:

I	anaa
You (singular, masculine)	anta
You (singular, feminine)	anti
He	huwa
She	hiya
We	nahnu
You (plural, masculine)	antum
You (plural, feminine)	antunna
They	hum

QUESTIONS

The easiest way of asking a question in Arabic is to use a question word at the beginning of the phrase or sentence, e.g.:

What's this?	<u>maa</u> haadha?
Which man?	<u>ayyu</u> rajul?
Which lady?	<u>ayyatu</u> imra'a?
Who are you?	<u>man</u> anta?
Why did the girl leave?	<u>limaadhaa</u> kharajat al-bintu?
When did the plane land?	<u>mataa</u> habatat at-taa'ira?
Where did he buy a shirt?	<u>ayna</u> ishtaraa qamiis?

An affirmative sentence (statement) may be turned into an interrogative one (question) by means of the word **hal**, e.g.:

The boy ate	akala al-waladu
Did the boy eat?	<u>hal</u> akala al-waladu?

NEGATION

Negation is expressed differently for nominal as opposed to verbal sentences.

When negating nominal and adjectival phrases, **laysa** or one of its variants is inserted after the noun or pronoun to which it refers, e.g.:

I am not angry lastu ghaadiban (literally "not I angry")

Laysa combines with the personal pronouns as follows:

I	lastu
You (singular, masculine)	lasta
You (singular, feminine)	lasti
He	laysa
She	laysat
We	lasnaa
You (plural, masculine)	lastum

You (plural, feminine)	<i>lastunna</i>
They	<i>laysuu</i>

In addition, there are four verbal negation words used according to the tense of the verb, e.g.:

<u>laa</u>	present	<u>laa</u> <u>ashrab</u>	I'm not drinking
<u>lan</u>	future	<u>lan</u> <u>ashrab</u>	I won't drink
<u>lam</u>	past	<u>lam</u> <u>ashrab</u>	I didn't drink
<u>maa</u>	past/continuing	<u>maa</u> <u>sharibtu</u>	I haven't drunk

What's Up?

1

Hello.

مرحبا

marhaban

How are you?

كيف الحال؟

kayfa l-haal?

I'm fine.

بخير

bikhayr

OK, I guess.

الأمر عادية

Not very common in Arabic.

al-umuur 'aadiyya

So-so.

لا بأس

laa ba'sa

Things are busy.

أنا مشغول جدا

anaa mashghuul jiddan

Things are hard.

الأوضاع صعبة

al-awdaa' sa'ba

Literally, this means the situation (conditions) is not as good as it should be.

How have you been?

كيف أنت؟

kayfa anta?

I've been fine, thank you.

أنا بخير، شكرا

anaa bikhayr, shukran

What's new?

هل من جديد؟

hal min jadiid?

What have you been doing?

ماذا كنت تفعل؟

maadha kunta taf'al?

Nothing much.

ليس كثيرا

laysa kathiiran

Nothing special.

لا شيء يذكر

laa shay' yudhkar**I haven't seen you around for a while.**

لم أرك في المنطقة منذ فترة

lam arak fi l-mintaqa mundhu
fitra**Yes, it's been a long time.**

نعم، لقد مضى وقت طويل

na'am, laqad mada waqtun
tawiil**Have you been around?**

هل كنت في المنطقة؟

Hal kunta fi l-mintaqa?**What are you doing here?**

ماذا تفعل هنا؟

maadha taf'al hunaa**How's Peter / Mary doing?**

كيف حال بيتر / ماري؟

kayfa haal Peter / Mary?**He's / she's fine.**

إنه / إنها بخير

innahu / innaha bikhayr**Anything new with Peter / Mary?**

هل من جديد مع بيتر / ماري؟

hal min jadiid ma'a Peter /
Mary?**What's wrong?**

ماذا حدث؟

maadha hadath?**What's on your mind?**

ماذا يدور بفكرك؟

maadha yaduur bifikrik?**Nothing.**

لا شيء

laa shay'**I was just thinking.**

كنت أفكر

kuntu ufakkir

I was just daydreaming.

لقد سرحت بالتفكير

laqad sarihtu bit-tafkiir**It's none of your business.**

هذا الأمر لا يهمك

haadha al-amr laa yahummuk

Mind your own business. ihtamm bimaa huwa min
اهتم بما هو من شأنك sha'nik

Leave me alone. utruknii liwahdii
اتركني لوحدي

Go away. idhhab min hunaa
إذهب من هنا

Fuck off. hill 'annii
حل عني

This is a colloquial expression which means "get out of my sight". The actual expression "fuck off" is not used in Standard Arabic.

Really? haqqaan?
حقا؟

Is that so? ahaakadhaa?
أهكذا؟



Are you sure? hal anta muta'akkid?
هل أنت متأكد؟

Yeah? aah, na'am?
أوه نعم؟

You're lying.

أنت تكذب

anta takdhib

This expression is very impolite in Arabic and should be avoided as much as possible. You can suggest to your interlocutor instead that their information might be incorrect using the expression "ma'luumatik khaatja".

Don't lie.

لا تكذب

laa takdhib**Stop lying.**

توقف عن الكذب

tawaqqaf 'an il-kadhib**How come?**

وكيف ذلك؟

wa kayfa dhaalik?**What do you mean?**

ماذا تقصد؟

maadha taqsid?**Is something wrong?**

ما المشكلة؟

maa l-mushkila?**What's the difference?**

ما الفرق؟

maa l-farq?**What?**

ماذا؟

maadha?**Huh?**

ها؟

haa?

Are you serious?

هل أنت جدي؟

hal anta jiddii?

You don't mean it!

أنت لا تقصد هذا!

anta laa taqsid haadha!**That's impossible!**

هذا مستحيل!

haadha mustahii!**That's too good to be true.**

لا يمكن أن يكون هذا صحيحا

laa yumkin an yakuun haadha sahiihan**I don't believe it.**

لا أصدق هذا

laa usaddiq haadha

You're joking.

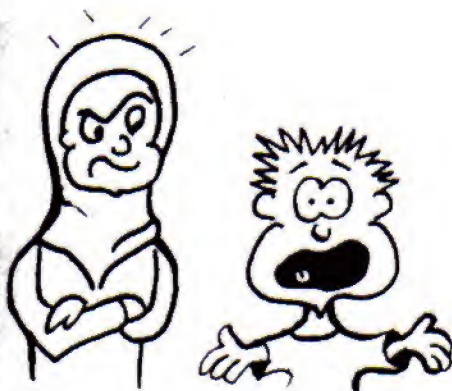
أنت تمزح

anta tamzah

Are you making fun
of me?

هل تسخر مني

hal taskhar minnii?



Stop joking!

توقف عن المزاح

tawaqqaf 'an il-muzaah!

I'm not joking.

لست أمزح

lastu amzah

It's true.

هذا صحيح

haadha sahiih

You're crazy.

أنت مجنون

anta majnuun

That's right.

هذا صحيح

haadha sahiih

Absolutely.

بالتأكيد

bit-ta'kiid

Definitely.

قطعا

qat'an

Of course.

tab'an

طبعاً

You'd better believe it.

'alayka an tuṣaddiq

عليك أن تصدق

No way.

laa yumkin

لا يمكن

The expression "mustaḥjil" meaning "impossible" can also be used in this context.

I guess so.

azunnu dhaalik

أظن ذلك

I hope so.

aamulu dhaalik

أمل ذلك

I hope not.

aamulu an laa yakuuna

أمل أن لا يكون كذلك

kadhaalik

It might be true.

mumkin an yakuun haqiiqa

ممكّن أن يكون حقيقة

I doubt it.

ashukku fii dhaalik

أشك في ذلك

I don't think so.

laa azunnu dhaalik

لا أظن ذلك

I'm not sure.

lastu muta'akkidan

لست متأكدا

There's no way of knowing.

laysa hunaaka tariiqa lilma'rifa

ليس هناك طريقة للمعرفة

I can't say for sure.

laa astatii' an ua'kkid

لا أستطيع أن أوكد

I wonder...

atasaa'alu...

أستأعل...

The literal meaning of "I wonder" in Arabic is "ata'ajjabu" which indicates astonishment rather the English sense of "wondering" about something.

Forget it.

insaa

إنسى

I've had enough. تحملت كفاية	tahammaltu kifaaya
Damn. اللعة	al-la'na
Bullshit. هذا هراء.	haad <u>ha</u> huraa'
You can't do that. لا تستطيع أن تفعل ذلك	laa tastatii' an taf'al <u>d</u> haalika
I don't care. لا يهمني	laa yahummuniil
It's got nothing to do with me. لا علاقة لي بذلك	laa 'alaaqata lii bi <u>d</u> haalik
It means nothing to me. لا يعني شيئا بالنسبة لي	laa ya'nii <u>sh</u> ay-an bin-nisbati lii
I'm not interested. لا يهمني	laa yahummunii
Sure, if you like. بالتأكيد، إذا رغبت	bit-ta'kiid, i <u>d</u> haa raghibt
Whatever you want. كما تريد	kamaa turiid
Anything's fine with me. أنا لا أكره ذلك	anaa laa aktari <u>th</u> li <u>d</u> haalik
I think so too. أظن ذلك أيضا	azunnu <u>d</u> haalika ay <u>d</u> an
So am I. / Me too. وكذلك أنا / أنا أيضا	wa ka <u>d</u> haalika anaa / anaa ay <u>d</u> an
I see what you mean. أنا أرى ما تقصد	anaa ara maa taq <u>s</u> iduhu
Right, I understand. حسنا، أنا أفهم	<u>h</u> asanan, anaa afham

All right, no problem.

حسنا، لا يوجد أي إشكال

hasanan, laa yuujad ayy
ishkaal

That was good.

كان ذلك جيدا

kaana dhaalika jayyidan

Great!

عظيم

'aziim

I like it!

هذا يعجبني

haadha yu'jibunii!



I did it!

لقد فعلتها

laqad fa'altuhaa

No problem.

ما من مشكلة

maa min mushkila

It was no problem.

لم يكن صعبا

lam yakun sa'ban

But...

ولكن...

wa laakin...

It's risky.

هذا أمر خطير

haadha amrun khatiir

The word "risky" translates to "dangerous" in Arabic which is not used unless the situation is indeed "dangerous". A suitable alternative is the word "muhim" meaning literally "important" but one that conveys the English meaning of "serious" adequately.

Cheer up.

إبتحى

ibtahij

Calm down.

إهدأ

ihda'

Never mind.

ليس مهم

laysa muhimman

It doesn't matter.

لا يهم

laa yahumm

Basic Phrases

2

Yes.

na'am

نعم

No.

laa

لا

OK.

tayyib

طيب

This word can be used interchangeably with the word "hasanan", meaning "well".

What?

maadha?

ماذا؟

Who?

man?

من؟

Whose?

liman?

لمن؟

Where?

ayna?

أين؟

When?

mataa?

متى؟

Why?

limaadha?

لماذا؟

Why not?

limaa laa?

لم لا؟

Because...

li'anna...

لأن...

How?

kayfa?

كيف؟

This. هَذَا	ha <u>a</u> dha
That. ذَاكَ	<u>d</u> haaka
Here. هِنَا	huna <u>a</u>
There. هِنَاكَ	huna <u>a</u> aka
Maybe. مُمْكِن	mumkin
Maybe not. رِمَا لَا	rub b amaa laa
I. أَنَا	anaa
You. أَنْتَ	anta
He / she. هُوَ / هِيَ	huwa / hiya
We. نَحْنُ	na <u>h</u> nu
You (plural). أَنْتُمْ	antum
They. هُم	hum m
Don't. لَا تَفْعَلْ	laa taf'al
Please. مِنْ فَضْلِكَ	min fad <u>l</u> ik
The expression "law samaht" meaning "if you permit" can be used interchangeably here.	
Thank you. شُكْرًا	shu <u>k</u> ran

Can I have that?

ممكن آخذ ذلك؟

mumkin aakhudh dhaalika?**How much is this?**

بكم هذا؟

bikamm haadha?**That's so cheap.**

هذا رخيص

haadha rakhiis**That's not cheap.**

هذا ليس رخيصا

haadha laysa rakhiisan**That's too expensive.**

هذا غال جدا

haadha ghaalin jiddan**I'm not buying that.**

لن أشتري ذلك

lan ashtariya dhaalika

Make it cheaper and I'll buy it.

إذا ترخص الثمن فسأشتريه

idhaa turakhkhis ath-thaman
fa-sa-ashtariih

Bargaining is normal in most Arabic countries especially in old markets (souks) and medinas.

Got a Minute?

3

One moment, please.

lahza min fadlik

لحظة من فضلك

When?

mataa?

متى؟

Till when?

ila ghaayat?

إلى غاية...؟

About when?

mataa taqriiban?

متى تقريبا؟

The Arabic question word "mataa" can also be used in this context.

What time?

fii ayy waqt?

في أي وقت؟



Is that too early?

هل هذا باكرا جدا

hal haadhaa baakirun jiddan?

Is that too late?

هل هذا متأخرا جدا

hal haadha muta'akhirun jiddan?

What time is it convenient for you? ما هو الوقت المناسب لك؟	maa huwa al-waqt al-munaasib laka?
What day is it convenient for you? أي يوم مناسب لك؟	ay yawm munaasib laka?
How about tomorrow? ما رأيك في الغد؟	maa ra'yuk fi l-ghad?
How about the day after tomorrow? ما رأيك في بعد الغد؟	maa ra'yuka fii ba'd al-ghad?
Today. اليوم	al-yawm
Yesterday. البارحة	al-baariha
In many Arabic countries "amsi" will be used.	
The day before yesterday أول أمس	awwal ams
How about the 18th? ما رأيك في الثامن عشر؟	maa ra'yuk fii ath-thaamin 'ashar?
The first / second / third / fourth / fifth... الأول / الثاني / الثالث / الرابع / الخامس	al-awwal / ath-thaanii / ath-thaalith / ar-raabi' / al-khaamis
The sixth / seventh / eighth / ninth / tenth... السادس / السابع / الثامن / التاسع / العاشر	as-saadis / as-saabi' / ath-thaamin / at-taasi' / al-'aashir
The eleventh / twelfth / thirteenth / fourteenth / fifteenth... الحادي عشر / الثاني عشر / الثالث عشر / الرابع عشر / الخامس عشر	al-haadii 'ashar / ath-thaanii 'ashar / ath-thaalith 'ashar / ar-raabi' 'ashar / al-khaamis 'ashar

**The sixteenth / seven-
teenth / eighteenth /
nineteenth / twentieth...**

السادس عشر / السابع عشر / الثامن
عشر / التاسع عشر / العشرون

as-saadis 'ashar / as-saabi'
'ashar / ath-thaamin 'ashar /
at-taasi' 'ashar / al-'ishruun

**The twenty-first / twenty-
second / twenty-third /
twenty-fourth / twenty-
fifth...**

الحادي والعشرون / الثاني
والعشرون / الثالث والعشرون / الرابع
والعشرون / الخامس والعشرون

al-haadi wal 'ishruun / ath-
thaani wal 'ishruun / ath-
thaalith wal 'ishruun / ar-raabi'
wal 'ishruun / al-khaamis wal
'ishruun

**The twenty-sixth /
twenty-seventh / twenty-
eighth / twenty-ninth...**

السادس والعشرون / السابع
والعشرون / الثامن والعشرون /
التاسع والعشرون

as-saadis wal 'ishruun / as-
saabi' wal 'ishruun / ath-
thaamin wal 'ishruun / at-
taasi' wal 'ishruun

**The thirtieth / thirty-
first...**

الثلاثون / الواحد والثلاثون

ath-thalaathuun / al-waahid
wath-thalaathuun

**...of January / February /
March / April / May / June
/ July.**

من كانون الثاني / شباط / آذار /
نيسان / أيار / حزيران / تموز

min kaanuun ath-thaanii /
shubaat / aadhaar / naysaan /
ayyar / huzayraan / tammuuz

In many parts of the Arab world, different names for the calendar months are in use. For example, in North Africa the French names of months are Arabised.

**...of August / September /
October / November /
December.**

من آب / أيلول / تشرين الأول /
تشرين الثاني / كانون الأول

min aab / ayluul / tishriin al-
awwal / tishriin ath-thaanii /
kaanuun al-awwal

Could it be sooner?

ممكن أن نقدم موعده؟

mumkin an nuqaddim

maw'idah?

I'd rather make it later.

أفضل تأخير

ufaddil ta'khiirah

One / two / three / four / five / six o'clock.

الساعة الواحدة / الثانية / الثالثة /
الرابعة / الخامسة / السادسة

as-saa'a al-waahida / ath-
thaaniya / ath-thaalitha / ar-
raabi'a / al-khaamisa / as-
saadisa

Half past seven / eight / nine / ten / eleven.

السابعة والنصف / الثامنة /
التاسعة / العاشرة / الحادية عشرة

as-saabi'a wan-nisf / ath-
thaamina / at-taasi'a / al-
'aashira / al-haadiyata 'ashara

In the morning.

في الصباح

fi s-sabaah

In the afternoon.

بعد الظهر

ba'da z-zuhr

In the evening.

في المساء

fi l-masaa'

Midday.

منتصف النهار

muntaṣaf an-nahaar

Midnight.

منتصف الليل

muntaṣaf al-layl

Then when can you make it?

إذا متى تستطيع أن تقوم به؟

idhaa mataa tastatii' an
taquum bihi?

What time can I come over?

متى أستطيع أن أتي إليك؟

mataa astatii' an aati ilayka?

What time do we leave?

متى سنغادر؟

mataa sa-nughaadir?

What time do we arrive?

متى سنصل؟

mataa sanaasil?

What time will you be back?	fii ay waqt ta'uud?
في أي وقت تعود؟	
Are you ready?	hal anta musta'idd?
هل أنت مستعد؟	
When will you do it?	mataa sataquumu bihi?
متى ستقوم به؟	
When will it be finished?	mataa sa-yantahii?
متى سينتهي؟	
How long will it take?	kam mina al-waqt yahtaaj?
كم من الوقت يحتاج؟	
It'll be done soon.	sa-antahii qariiban
سأنتهي قريباً	
Not now.	laysa al'aan
ليس الآن	
Maybe later.	mumkin fiimaa ba'd
ممكن فيما بعد	
Not yet.	laysa ba'd
ليس بعد	
Last time.	aakh <u>ir</u> marra
آخر مرة	
Previously.	saabiqan
سابقاً	
Next time.	al-marra al-qaadima
المرة القادمة	
I don't know when.	laa a'rif mataa
لا أعرف متى	
I don't know yet.	laa a'lam ba'd
لا أعلم بعد	
I'm not sure.	lastu muta'akkidan
لست متأكداً	

Sometime. أحياناً	ahyaanaan
Someday. يوماً ما	yawman maa
Always. دائماً	daa'iman
Every day. كل يوم	kulla yawm
Never again! لن يعاد	lan yu'aad!
Anytime is fine. ممكن في أي وقت	mumkin fii ayy waqt
You decide when. أنت تقرر متى	anta tuqarrir mataa
Whenever you like. متى يحلو لك	mataa yahlu lak
That day is fine. ذلك اليوم مناسب	dhaalika al-yawm munaasib
OK, let's meet then. طيب، فلنلتقي إذا	tayyib, fa-lnaltaqii idhan
That's a bad day for me. هذا يوم سيئ لي (لا يناسبني)	haadhaa yawm sayyi' lii (laa yunaasibnii)
Arab people don't always state such "negative" opinions directly.	
Let's begin. هيا نبدأ	hayyaa nabda'
Let's continue. هيا نتابع	hayya nutaabi'
Let's start again. هيا نبدأ مرة أخرى	hayya nabda' marra ukhra
Let's do it later. فلنقم به لاحقاً	fa-lnaqum bihi laahiqan

It'll only take a minute. سيأخذ لحظة فقط	saya'khudh lahza faqat
Hurry up! أسرع	asri'!
Do it later. قم به لاحقاً	qum bihi laaḥiqan
I'll do it quickly. سأقوم به بسرعة	sa-aquum bihi bi-sur'a
I'll finish soon. سأنتهي حالا	sa-antahii ḥaalan
I've finished. انتهيت	intahaytu
Have you finished? هل انتهيت؟	hal intahayta?

Hey There!

4

Listen!

isma'

إسمع!

An interrogative version of the verb in this situation will also be appropriate as in: "hal tasma' shayan?"

Can you hear something?

hal tasma' shay-an?

هل تسمع شيئاً؟

What's that noise?

maa haadhihi ad-dajja?

ما هذه الضجة؟

Listen to what I'm saying.

isghi limaa aquuluh

إصغ لما أقوله

Don't listen to him.

laa tastami' ilayh

لا تستمع إليه

Don't ask me that.

laa tas'alnii

لا تسألني

Can you hear me?

hal tasma'nii?

هل تسمعني؟

Did you hear me?

hal sami'tanii?

هل سمعتني؟



I couldn't hear.

لم أسمع

lam asma'

I don't want to hear about that.

لا أريد أن أسمع عن ذلك

laa uriid an asma' 'an dhaalik

Say something.

قل شيئاً

qul shay-an

Don't say such things.

لا تقل شيئاً كذلك

laa taqul shay-an kadhaalik

What are you talking about?

عما تتكلم؟

'ammaa tatakallam?

You shouldn't say things like that.

يجب ألا تقول مثل تلك الأشياء

yajib allaa taquul mithil tilka al-ashyaa'

I didn't say anything.

لم أقل شيئاً

lam aqul shay-an

Let's talk in Arabic.

هيا نتكلم بالعربية

hayyaa natakal-lam bil-'arabiyya

Can you speak Arabic?

أستطيع أن تتحدث بالعربية؟

atastaḡii' an tatahadath bil-'arabiyya?

Arab people always find it strange that foreigners are able to speak Arabic (even someone with a very basic competence level).

Let's carry on talking.

لنستمر في الحديث

li-nastamirr fil-hadiith

Let's talk about it later.

فلنتكلم عن ذلك لاحقاً

fa-li-natakal-lam 'an dhaalika laahiqan

Tell me later.

أخبرني لاحقاً

akhb**i**rnii laahiqan

I don't feel like talking.

لا أرغب في الكلام

laa arghab fil-kalaam

I don't want to talk to you.

لا أريد أن أتكلم معك

laa uriid an atakallam ma'aka



Don't ask me that.

لا تسألني

laa tas'alnii

I don't want to talk about it.

لا أريد أن أتحدث عن ذلك

laa uriid an atahaddath 'an dhaalik

Don't make excuses.

لا تخلق أعذار

laa takhtaliq a'dhaaran

That's not a good excuse.

هذا ليس عذرا مقبولا

haadha laysa 'udhran maqbuulan

Stop complaining.

توقف عن التشكي

tawaqqaf 'an il-tashakki

Complaining about little things is common in Arabic culture, in particular among women.

Do you know what you're saying?

هل تدرك ما تقول؟

hal tudrik maa taquul?

Don't talk so loudly.

لا تتكلم بصوت مرتفع

laa tatakallam bisawt murtafi'

Speak up. إرفع صوتك	irfa' sawtak
Speak more slowly. تحدث بهدوء	tahaddath bihuduu'
Say it again. أعد ما قلت	a'id maa qult
Do you understand? أتفهم؟	atafham?
I understand. أنا أفهم	anaa afham
I don't understand. لم أفهم	lam afham
Can you understand me? أستطيع أن تفهمني؟	atastaḡii' an tafhamnii?
I couldn't understand. لم أستطع أن أفهم	lam astaḡi' an afham
What did you say? ماذا قلت؟	maadhā qult?
Did you say that? هل قلت ذلك؟	hal qulta dhaalik?
I didn't say that. لم أقل ذلك	lam aqul dhaalik
I didn't say anything. لم أقل شيئا	lam aqul shay-an
I didn't tell anyone. لم أخبر أحدا	lam ukhbir ahadan
I won't tell anyone. لن أخبر أحدا	lan ukhbira ahadan

Look At That!

5

Look!

أنظر

unzur!

Look at this.

أنظر إلى هذا

unzur ila haadha

Look at that.

أنظر إلى ذلك

unzur ila dhaalika

Take a look.

إلق نظرة

ilqi nazra

Normally such utterances would be followed by the adverb "bi-sur'a" meaning quickly.

Don't look!

لا تنظر

laa tanzur!



Don't look at this / that.

لا تنظر إلى هذا / ذلك

laa tanzur ila haadha / dhaalika

Can you see it?

هل تراه؟

hal taraah?

Did you see it?

هل رأيته؟

hal ra'aytah?

I can see it clearly.

إني أرى ذلك بوضوح

innii araa dhaalika bi-wuduuh

I saw it.

رأيت

ra'aytuhu

I didn't see it.

لم أراه

lam arah

I don't want to see it.

لا أريد أن أراه

laa uriid an araah

Have you seen Jeff?

هل رأيت جيف؟

hal ra'ayta Jeff?

I want to see you soon.

أريد أن أراك قريباً

uriidu an araaka qariiban

The term "qariiban" means literally "near" but as in this context it can also indicate temporal proximity.

I've been wanting to see you.

لقد اردت رؤيتك منذ وقت طويل

laqd ardtu ru'yataka mundhu waqtin tawiilin

I saw Paul the other day.

رأيت بول قبل بضعة أيام

ra'aytu buul qabla bid'at ayyaam

I'm going to see Kim next week.

سوف أرى كيم في الأسبوع القادم

sawfa araa Kim fil-'usbuu' al-qaadim

So we meet again!

إذا نلتقي مرة أخرى

idhan naltaqii marra ukhrraa!

I'll show you.

سوف أريك

sawfa uriik

I won't show you.

لن أريك

lan uriika

Coming and Going

6

Come here!

تعال هنا

ta'aala hunaa

Such commands should always be preceded by polite expressions such as "min fadlik" meaning "please".

Come over to my place.

تعال إلى بيتي

ta'aala ila baytii

I'll come over soon.

سأزورك قريباً

sa-azuuruk qariiban

Come later.

زرنني لاحقاً

zurnii laahiqan

Can you come?

أستطيع أن تأتي؟

atastaḥii' an ta'tii?

Come along with us.

تعال معنا

ta'aala ma'anaa

She's coming here.

إنها آتية إلى هنا

innaha aatiya ila huna

I'm coming, wait a second.

أنا أت، إنتظر لحظة

ana aatin, intazir lahza

I'll go soon.

سأذهب حالا

sa-adhhabu haalan

I can go.

أستطيع أن أذهب

astaḥii' an adhhab

I think I can go.

أعتقد أنه بإمكانني أن أذهب

a'taqid annahu bi-imkaanii an adhhaba

I can't go.

لا أستطيع أن أذهب

laa astaḥii' an adhhaba

I want to go. أريد أن أذهب	uriid an <u>ad</u> hhab
I want to go to Baghdad. أريد أن أذهب إلى بغداد	uriid an <u>ad</u> hhaba ila baghdaad
I really want to go. في الواقع أريد أن أذهب	fil-waaqi' uriid an <u>ad</u> hhaba
I don't want to go. لا أريد أن أذهب	laa uriid an <u>ad</u> hhaba
I really don't want to go. في الواقع لا أريد أن أذهب	fil-waaqi' laa uriid an <u>ad</u> hhaba
You're going, aren't you? أنت ذاهب أليس كذلك؟	anta <u>d</u> haahib alaysa ka <u>d</u> haalika?
You went, didn't you? ذهبت أليس كذلك؟	<u>d</u> hahabta alaysa ka <u>d</u> haalika?
I'm going. أنا ذاهب	anaa <u>d</u> haahib
I'm not going. لست ذاهباً	lastu <u>d</u> haahiban
I went. ذهبت	<u>d</u> hahabtu
I didn't go. لم أذهب	lam <u>ad</u> hhab
Don't go! لا تذهب	laa ta <u>d</u> hhab
Don't go yet. لا تذهب بعد	laa ta <u>d</u> hhab ba'd
I have to go. يجب أن أذهب	yajib an <u>ad</u> hhab
I must go now. يجب أن أذهب الآن	yajib an <u>ad</u> hhab al-aan
May I go? هل أستطيع أن أذهب؟	hal asta <u>t</u> ii' an <u>ad</u> hhab?

Shall we go?

هل نذهب؟

hal nadhhab?**Let's go.**

هيا بنا

hayyaa binaa

Let's leave here.

لنترك هنا

li-natruk hunaa

I'm leaving soon.

أنا مغادر قريبا

anaa mughaadirun qariiban**She has left here.**

لقد غادرت هذا المكان

laqad ghaadarat haadha l-
makaan**Stay here.**

إبق هنا

ibqa hunaa

Where are you going?

إلى أين ذاهب؟

ila ayna dhaahib?**Please go first.**

أرجوك أذهب أنت أولا

arjuuk idhhab anta awwalan**Thanks for letting me go first.**شكرا على سماحك لي بالذهاب
أولاshukran 'ala samaahika lii bi-
dhahaab awwalan**Go slowly.**

تهدأ

tamahhal

Eat, Drink, Be Merry!

7

I'm hungry.

anaa jaa'i'

أنا جائع

Food and eating are major social events in the Arab world. Even a quick lunch can be a social event shared among friends and family members.

I'm starving.

anaa jaw'aan

أنا جوعان

I'd like to eat something.

uriidu an aakula shay-an

أريد أن أكل شيئا؟

Have you eaten?

hal akalta?

هل أكلت؟

Joining others and sharing food with them is a sign of welcome and friendship.

I haven't eaten yet.

lam aakul ba'd

لم أكل بعد

Do you want to eat something?

aturiid an ta'kula shay-an?

أتريد أن تأكل شيئا؟

I don't want to eat.

laa uriid an aakul

لا أريد أن أكل

I won't eat.

lan aakula

لن أكل

It is important to indicate the reason for not wanting to eat, otherwise a negative conclusion can be drawn.

Do you want to eat some more?

hal turiid al-maziid min at-
ta'am?

هل تريد المزيد من الطعام؟

It is customary to show that you really enjoyed the food by accepting an extra serving.

What would you like?

ماذا تحب؟

maadha tuhibb?**I'm thirsty.**

أنا عطشان

anaa 'atshaan**Do you want to drink something?**

هل تريد أن تشرب شيئا؟

hal turiidu an tashraba shay-an?**I'd like to drink beer.**

أحب أن أشرب بيرة

uhibbu an ashraba biira

Beer is not consumed publicly in many Arab countries because of the strict Islamic rules. But many young people do often drink beer in hotels and western-style cafes (bars).

I want some liquor.

أريد بعض الشراب

uriidu ba'd ash-sharaab

I don't want to drink.

لا أريد أن أشرب

laa uriidu an ashraba**I won't drink.**

لن أشرب

lan ashraba**I haven't drunk yet.**

لم أشرب بعد

lam ashrab ba'd**This tastes too weird.**

طعمه غريب جدا

ta'muhu ghariib jiddan

I think this has gone bad.

أظن أنه تالف

azunnu annahu taalif



I think this stuff's stale.
أظن أن هذا الأكل قديم

azunnu anna haad^haa al-akil
qadiim

Wow, this tastes good!
هذا طعمه جيد

haad^haa, ta'mahu jayyid!

**Do you want to drink
some more?**
أتريد المزيد من الشراب؟

aturiid al-maziid mina ash-
sharaab?

**Thank you, but I still
have some.**
شكرا، ولكن ما زال لدي بعض
الشراب

shukran, wa laakin maa zaala
laday ba'du ush-sharaab

**Come on, drink a little
bit more.**
هيا، أشرب المزيد

hayya, ish^hrab il-maziid

It's on me.
على حسابي

'ala hisaabii

Unlike in Western societies, Arabs do not like to divide the bill. So one individual (usually the host) will always pay the full bill.

How about some dinner?
ما رأيك في تناول العشاء
معا؟

maa ra'yuka fii tanaawul al-
'ash^haa' ma'an?

Have you ordered?
هل طلبت؟

hal talabt?

Is the meal ready?
هل الوجبة جاهزة (حاضرة)؟

hal al-wajba jaahiza (haad^hira)?

It's ready.
إنها جاهزة

innaha jaahiza

Will you try this food?
يمكن أن تتذوق هذا الطعام؟

mumkin an tatad^hawwaq
haad^haa at-ta'aam?

That looks delicious.
يبدو لذيذا

yabduu ladhiidhan



It smells good.

رائحته جيدة

raai'hatuhu jayyida

This is a feast.

هذه وليمة

haadhihi waliima

Yum!

لذيذ

ladhiidh!

Do you want more food?

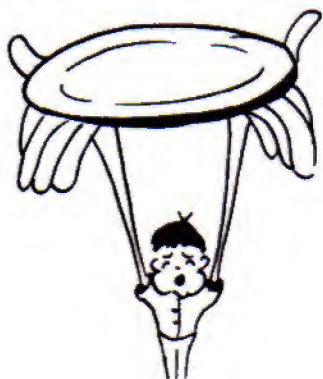
أتريد المزيد من الطعام؟

aturiid al-maziid mina aṭ-ṭa'am?

I'd like more food.

أحب المزيد من الطعام

uhib al-maziid mina aṭ-ṭa'am



Give me some more. أعطني المزيد من الطعام.	a'tinii al-maziid min aṭ-ṭa'aam
Give me a little more. أعطني أقل من هذا	a'tinii aqal min haadha
Enough? أيكفي؟	ayakfii?
Enough. يكفي	yakfii
Not enough. لا يكفي	laa yakfii
What's this? ما هذا؟	maa haadh ^h aa?
Taste it. تذوقه	tadhawwaqhu
I can't eat that. لا أستطيع أن أكل هذا	laa astaṭii' an aakula haadh ^h aa
What's it called? ماذا يسمى؟	maadh ^h aa yusammaa?
Is it spicy? هل هو مبهراً؟	hal huwa mubahharr?
Yuck! إخ (مقرف)	ikh (muqrif)!
It's not good. ليس جيداً	laysa jayyidan
It doesn't taste good. طعمه ليس جيداً	ṭa'muhu laysa jayyidan
It's awful. إنه فظيع	innahu fazii'
It tastes like shit. إنه فظيع	innahu fazii'

The spoken Arabic term for "shit" (kharaa) is not used frequently as it has strong negative (even impolite) connotations.

Water, water!

ماء، ماء

maa', maa'!

My mouth's on fire.

فمي يحترق

famii yahtariq



How do you eat this?

كيف تأكل هذا؟

kayfa ta'kul haadha?

Please bring me a fork.

أرجوك احضر لي شوكة

arjuuk ahdir lii shawka

Do you want a knife?

هل تريد سكيناً؟

hal turiid sikkiin?

I Like It!

8

I like this.

يعجبني هذا

yu'jibunii haadha

Arab people tend to always indicate that they like things (gifts) even if they don't really think so. This is a face-saving strategy aimed at making the other person feel good about their choice of things / gifts etc.

I like it a lot.

يعجبني كثيرا

yu'jibunii kathiiran

I don't like it very much.

لا يعجبني كثيرا

laa yu'jibunii kathiiran

I don't like it.

هذا لا يعجبني

haadha laa yu'jibunii



I hate it.

أكره

akrahuh

I really hate it.

حقيقة أكره

haqiiqatan akrahuh

No, thank you.

لا، شكر

laa, shukran

I want...(noun).

أريد...

uriidu...

I don't want...

لا أريد...

laa uriidu...

I want to...(verb).

أريد أن...

uriidu an...

I don't want to...

لا أريد أن...

laa uriidu an...

I really don't want it.

حقيقة لا أريده

haqiqatan, laa uriiduhu

I don't need this.

لا أحتاج إلى هذا

laa ahtaaj ila haadha

I'm busy.

أنا مشغول

anaa mashghuul

I'm happy.

أنا سعيد

anaa sa'iid



I'm pleased to hear that.

أنا سعيد لسماع ذلك

anaa sa'iid lisamaa' dhaalik

I'm glad to know that.

أنا سعيد لمعرفة ذلك

anaa sa'iid lima'rifati dhaalik

I'm sad.

أنا حزين

anaa haziin

I'm fine.

أنا بخير

anaa bikhayr

I'm afraid.

أنا خائف

anaa khaa'if

I'm getting sick of it.

بدأت أمل من ذلك

bada'tu amull min dhaalik

I'm irritated.

أنا متضايق

anaa mutadaayiq

I'm mad at you.

أنا متزعج منك

anaa munza'ij minka

I'm pissed off.

أنا متزعج

anaa munza'ij

There is no equivalence in Arabic to the English "pissed off". Therefore, an alternative expression such as "munza'ij" should be used.

I'm confused.

أنا مرتبك

anaa murtabik



I'm going crazy.

سأجن

sa'ujann

I freaked.

أنا خائف

anaa khaa'if

I'm ready.

أنا مستعد

anaa musta'idd

I'm tired.

أنا تعب

anaa ta'baan

I'm sleepy.

أنا نعل

anaa na'saan

I'm hung over.

أنا شمل

anaa thamil

It's not typical of people in the Arab world to indicate that they are "drunk" or "stoned". This is because drinking is not socially accepted.

I'm stoned.

أنا سكران

anaa sakraan

I'm surprised.

لقد فوجئت بهذا

laqad fuuji'tu bi-haadha**I'm bored.**

أشعر بالملل

ash'uru bil-malal**I'm tired of it.**

أنا متعب من ذلك

anaa mut'ab min dhaalik**What a drag!**

طال هذا الأمر أكثر من اللازم

taala haadha al-'amr 'akthar
mina al-laazim**How awful!**

يا للفظاعة (للشناعة)

yaa lal-fazaa'a (lil-shanaa'a)**What a pity!**

يا للخسارة

yaa lal-khasaara**What a relief!**

لحسن الحظ

lihusn il-hazz**I'm relieved to hear that.**

ارتحت لسماع ذلك

irtahtu lisamaa'i dhaalik**I feel sick.**

أشعر بالتقيؤ

ash'uru bit-taqayyu'

That's sickening. هذا قبيح	haadh ^h aa fazii'
I'm disappointed. خاب أمني	khaaba 'amalii
I'm disappointed in you. خاب أمني بك	khaaba 'amalii bik
I was worried. كنت قلقا	kuntu qaliquan
Can you do it? أستطيع أن تفعله	atastatii' an taf'aluh?
I can do it. أستطيع أن أفعل	astatii' an 'af'aluh
I can't do it. لا أستطيع أن أفعل	laa astatii' an 'af'aluh
I'll do it. سأفعل	sa-'af'aluh
In Arabic such utterances are always followed with the "insha'a Allah" expression. This means "God willing".	
I've got to do it. علي أن أفعل	'alayya an 'af'aluh
Sorry. آسف	aasif
I can't help it. لا أستطيع تجنب ذلك	laa astatii' tajannub dhaalik
That can't be helped. لا يمكن مساعدة ذلك	laa yumkin musaa'adat dhaalik
I understand. أنا أفهم	anaa 'afham
I know. أنا أعرف/أعلم	anaa 'a'rif / 'a'lam
I know that person. أعرف ذلك الشخص	a'rif dhaalika ash-shakhs

Do you know that?

أتعلم ذلك؟

ata'lam dhaalik?

Ah, you know that.

حسنا، أنت تعلم ذلك

hasanan, anta ta'lam dhaalik

Give me time to think it over.

أعطني وقتا للتفكير بذلك

a'tinii waqtan lit-tafkiir
bidhaalik

I'll think about it.

سأفكر بذلك

sa'ufakkir bidhaalik

I made a mistake.

أخطأت

akhta'tu

I blew it.

لقد أسأت التصرف

laqad asa'tu at-taṣarruf

Am I right?

هل أنا على حق؟

hal anaa 'ala haqq?

Am I wrong?

هل أنا على خطأ؟

hal anaa 'ala khata'?

Curses and Insults

9

What do you want?

ماذا تريد؟

maadha turiid?

Do you want to say
something?

أتريد أن تقول شيئاً؟

aturiid an taquula shay-an?

Don't look at me.

لا تنظر إلي

laa tanzur ilayya

What are you staring at?

بماذا تحدق؟

bi-maadha tuhaddiq?

What did you say?

ماذا قلت؟

maadha qult?

Who do you think you're
talking to?

من تعتقد أنك تخاطب؟

man ta'taqid annaka tukhaatib?

Do you know who I am?

أتعرف من أنا؟

ata'rif man anaa?



Why do you talk like that? لماذا تتكلم هكذا؟	limaadh <u>a</u> tatakallam haakadh <u>a</u> ?
Come here, I'll teach you some manners. تعال إلى هنا، سأعلمك بعض الآداب	ta'aal ila huna, sa'u'allimuka ba'da al-aadab
Don't mess round with me. لا تتلاعب معي	laa tatalaa'ab ma'ii
Stop it! توقف	tawaqqaf!
Shut up! أسكت	uskut!
What are you doing? ماذا تفعل؟	maadh <u>a</u> taf'al?
What did you hit me for? لماذا تضربني؟	limaadh <u>a</u> tadribunii?
Why did you push me? لماذا دفعتني؟	limaadh <u>a</u> dafa'tanii?
Do you want to fight? أتريد أن تتشاجر؟	aturiid an tatash <u>a</u> ajar?
I'm going to kill you. سأقتلك	sa'aqtuluk
Are we going to fight or not? هل سنتشاجر أم لا؟	hal sa-natash <u>a</u> ajar am laa?
Let's fight and see. هيا تتشاجر وسنرى	hayya natash <u>a</u> ajar wa sa-naraa.
Ouch! آه!	aah!
That hurts. هذا يؤلم	haadh <u>a</u> yu'lim

Don't! لا تفعل	laa taf'al
Don't hit me. لا تدريني	laa tadribnii
Don't do it again. لا تفعل ذلك مرة أخرى	laa taf'aal <u>d</u> haalik marra <u>u</u> khra
Help! النجدة	an-najda!
You're making me laugh. إنك تضحكني	innaka tud <u>h</u> ikunii
You deserve it. تستحق ذلك	tastahiq <u>d</u> haalik
You win. أنت الفائز	anta l-faa'iz
You're right. أنت على حق	anta 'ala <u>h</u> aqq
I was wrong. كنت مخطيء	kuntu muk <u>h</u> ti'
It was my fault. كانت غلطتي	kaanaat ghaltatii
Forgive me. سامحني	saamih <u>n</u> ii
Say you're sorry. قل إنك متأسف	qul innaka muta'assif
I'm sorry. أنا آسف	anaa aasif
I forgive you. سامحتك	saama <u>h</u> tuka
You're stupid. أنت أحمق	anta a <u>h</u> maq
That's stupid. هذه حماقة	haad <u>h</u> ihi <u>h</u> amaaqa

What you did was stupid. maa fa'altahu kaana humqan
ما فعلته كان حمقا

You're crazy. anta majnuun
أنت مجنون

Liar! kadhdhaab!
كذاب

You've got a big mouth! anta tatakallam kathiiran
أنت تتكلم كثيرا (mishkaljii)!

Get your head out of your ass! kun fii l-mustawa!
كن في المستوى

This is not a literal translation of the English sentence, which does not have an exact equivalent in Arabic. However, it conveys a similar meaning.

You bitch! yaa 'aahira!
يا ابن العاهرة!

This term is not used as easily as it is in English and other European languages. It reflects poorly on the speaker as much as on the person in question.

You bastard! yaa l-'aahira!
يا ابن العاهرة!

The note above also applies with this expression.

Shorty! yaa qasiiir!
يا قصير

Fatty! yaa samiin!
يا سمين

Being moderately "fat" is not viewed negatively in the Arab world. On the contrary, it is a sign that one is happy, well off, and well-looked after (well fed).

Four-eyes! yaa abuu n-nazzaraat!
يا ابو النظارات

Weakling! yaa lad-du'f!
يا للضعف

You ain't got balls!

ليس لديك الشجاعة الكاف

laysa ladayka ash-shajaa'a al-
kaafiya!**Your tool is small!**

يا صغير القضيبي

yaa saghiir l-qadiib!

Such explicit reference to someone's "tool" is not a common thing in Arabic, and should be avoided...

You're ugly!

أنت قبيح

anta qabiih!

You're the lowest!

أنت عديم الأصل

anta 'adiim t-asil!

Don't be so cocky!

لا تكن مغرورا!

laa takun maghruuran!

You're a tightwad!

يا بخيل!

yaa bakhiil!

Arabs value generosity, and to label someone a "tightwad" is extremely offensive.

Go to hell!

أغرب عني!

ughrub 'annii!

Fuck you!!

أغرب عني!

ughrub 'annii!

The f-word is not used in Arabic in the same way it is in English. The alternative listed here conveys a similarly strong message without the inherently offensive nature of the f-word.

Take your hands off!

إرفع يديك عني!

irfa' yadayka 'annii!



Don't touch me!

لا تلمسني!

laa talmusnii!

**I think you're trying to
trick me.**

أظن انك تحاول أن تخدعني

azunnu annaka tuhaawil an
takhda'nii

This can't be so expensive.

لا يمكن أن يكون هذا غاليا بهذا
الشكل

laa yumkin an yakuun haadha
ghaaliyan bihaadhaa ash-shakl

**This is different from
what I've heard.**

هذا يختلف عما سمعت

haadha yakhtalif 'ammaa
sami't!

**If you think I don't know
anything, you're wrong.**

إذا ظننت أنني لا أعلم شيئا فأنت
مخطيء

idhaa zanaanta annii laa a'lam
shay-an fa-anta mukhti'

Don't think I'm stupid.

لا تظن أنني أحمق

laa tazunn annii 'ahmaq

Explain to me why.

إشرح لي لماذا

ishrah lii limaadhaa

Think about it.

فكر بهذا الأمر

fakkir bihaadha l-'amr

**Don't you think you're
wrong?**

ألا تظن أنك مخطيء؟

alaa tazunn annaka mukhti'?

**I want to talk to the
manager.**

أريد أن أتكلم مع المدير

uriidu an atakallama ma'a l-
mudiir

**I'll never come here
again.**

لن آتي إلى هنا مرة أخرى

lan aatii ila hunaa marra ukhraa

I'll tell all my friends.

سأخبر جميع أصدقائي

sa-'ukhbir jamii' asdiqaa'ii

Tell me your name!

قلي ما إسمك

qullji maa ismuk!

**You'd better remember
what you tried to do.**

الأفضل أن تتذكر ما حاولت أن تفعل

al'afdal an tatadhakkar maa
haawalta an taf'al

Party Talk

10

Do you come here often?

هل تأتي إلى هنا عادة؟

hal ta'tii ila huna 'aadataan?

To start a conversation with people you don't know, it is normal for people in the Arab countries to ask about your native country occupation, hobbies etc...

Have I seen you before?

هل تقابلنا من قبل؟

hal taqaabalna min qabl?

Are you having a good time?

هل تتسلى جيدا؟

hal tatasallaa jayyidan?

You look like you're having a good time.

يبدو أنك تقضي وقتا جيدا

yabduu annaka taqdii waqtan jayyidan

Yes, I'm having fun.

نعم، أنا أتسلى

na'am, anaa atasallaa

We're having a good time, aren't we?

نحن نقضي وقتا ممتعا، أليس كذلك؟

nahnu naqdii waqtan mumti'an, alaysa kadhaalik?

This place is fun.

هذا المكان جيد للتسلية

haadha l-makaan jayyid lit-tasliya

Can I join you?

هل أستطيع أن أشاركك؟

hal astatii' an ushaarikak?

Although socializing and entertaining guests is a high priority in most Arab countries, it is still essential to check that you are indeed welcome to join in.

Shall we drink together?

ما رأيك في أن نتناول مشروبا؟

maa ra'yuka fii an natanaawala mashruuban?



Sometimes it is normal for someone to buy a drink (tea / coffee, soft drink, etc.) before checking whether you actually want it or not.

Can I buy you a drink?

هل أستطيع أن أشتري لك مشروباً؟

astaḡii' an aṣḡtarii laka mashruuban?

Can I sit here?

هل أستطيع أن أجلس هنا؟

hal astaḡii' an ajlisa huna?

Has someone reserved this seat?

هل هذا المقعد محجوز؟

hal haadha l-maq'ad mahjuuz?

Is someone sitting here?

هل من شخص يجلس هنا؟

hal min shakhs yajlis huna?

Someone's sitting here.

نعم شخص يجلس هنا

na'am shakhsun yajlis huna



Do you want to sit down?

هل تريد أن تجلس؟

hal turiid an tajlis?

May I sit down?

هل أستطيع أن أجلس؟

hal astaḡii' an ajlis?

Please sit down.

أجلس من فضلك

ijlis min fadlik

Scoot over.

إقترب قليلا

iqtarib qaliilan

What did you say?

ماذا قلت؟

maadha qult?

What's your name?

ما اسمك؟

maa asmuk?

My name's...

اسمي...

ismii...

When someone introduces himself, it is customary to reply with the expression "tacharrafna", meaning "honored to meet you". This is so even in the most informal gatherings.

Guess what it is!

أحزر ما هذا

ahzir maa haadhaa!

Are you here alone?

هل أنت وحدك هنا؟

hal anta wahdaka huna?

Yes, I'm here alone.

نعم، أنا هنا وحدي

na'am, anaa huna wahdii

No, I'm here with my friends.

لا، أنا هنا مع أصدقائي

laa, anaa huna ma' asdiqaa'ii

Did you two come here together?

هل جئتما معا؟

hal ji'tumaa ma'an?

Where do you live?

أين تسكن؟

ayna taskun?



Where do you come from? min ayna ant?

من أين أنت؟

How long have you been in this country? mundhu mata hadrat ila haadhihi l-bilaad?

منذ متى حضرت إلى هذه البلاد؟

Do you like Arab guys / girls? hal yu'jibuka sh-shabaab / l-banaaat al-'arab?

هل يعجبك الشباب/البنات العرب؟

This is a common question that should be answered diplomatically with the word "na'am" word meaning "yes".

How old are you? kam 'umruk?

كم عمرك؟

Unlike in Western cultures, it is not offensive in Arabic culture to ask both men and women about their ages.

Are you a student? hal anta taalib?

هل أنت طالب؟

Your English is good. lughatuka l-inkliiziyya jayyida

لغتك الإنكليزية جيدة

What's your job? maa hiya waziifatuka ('amaluk)?

ما هي وظيفتك (عملك)؟

That's an interesting job. innaha waziifa muthiira lil-ihtimaam

إنها وظيفة مثيرة للاهتمام

Where do you work? ayna ta'mal?

أين تعمل؟

How do you spend your time? kayfa taqddii waqtak?

كيف تقضي وقتك؟

What kinds of hobbies do you have? maa hiya hiwaayaatuk?

ما هي هواياتك؟

What music do you like? maa hiya l-muusiiqaa l-latii tu'jibuk?

ما هي الموسيقى التي تعجبك؟

Do you know this song?

أتعرف هذه الأغنية؟

ata'rif haadhihi l-'ughniya?



I know it.

أعرفها

a'rifuhaa

I don't know it.

لا أعرفها

laa a'rifuhaa

This is the first time I'm hearing it.

هذه أول مرة أسمع ذلك

haadhihi awwalu marra asma'u
dhaalik

Shall we dance?

ممکن أن نرقص؟

mumkin an narqus?



I can't dance.

لا أجيد الرقص

laa ujjidu r-raḡṣa

Are you in the mood?

هل لديك الرغبة

hal ladayka r-raḡḥba?

Not really.

الحقيقة لا

al-ḥaqiiqa laa

I don't feel like dancing
yet.

لست راغبا في الرقص بعد

lastu raaghiban fil-raḡṣ ba'd

You're a good dancer.

أنت تجيد الرقص

anta tujiid r-raḡṣa

Complimenting others, even when the compliment is a little too generous, is important in Arabic culture.



How do you know of this
place?

كيف عرفت هذا المكان؟

kayfa 'arifta haadha l-makaan?

I heard from my friends.

سمعت من أصدقائي

sami'tu min aṣḍiqaa'ii

Where else do you go to
dance?

إلى أي أماكن أخرى تذهب
للرقص؟

ila 'ayyi amaakinin 'ukhra
tadḥhab lir-raḡṣ?

Let's party!

هيا نحتفل

hayya naḥtafil!

Let's get drunk!

هيا نسكر

hayya naskar!

What are you drinking?

ماذا تشرب؟

maadhaa tashrab?**Have you been drinking a lot?**

هل شربت كثيرا؟

hal sharibta kathiiran?**Well, drink some more!**

حسنا، أشرب المزيد

hasanaan, ishrab l-maziid!**You need to drink more.**

أنت تحتاج أن تشرب المزيد

anta tahtaaj an tashrab l-maziid**You're a strong drinker.**

أنت شرب

anta shirriib

Are you drunk?

هل أنت سكران؟

hal anta sakraan?

Haven't you drunk too much?

ألا تعتقد أنك شربت كثيرا؟

alaa ta'taqid annaka sharibta kathiiran?**Maybe you should stop drinking.**

من الأفضل أن تتوقف عن الشرب

mina l-afdal an tatawaqqafa 'an sh-shurb**Are you OK?**

هل أنت على مايرام؟

hal anta 'ala maa yuraam?

What time did you come here?

متى جئت إلى هنا؟

mata ji'ta ila huna?

What time do you have to be home?

متى تعود إلى البيت؟

mata ta'uud ila l-bayt?

What time are you leaving?

متى ستغادر؟

mata sa-tughaadir?

It depends. يتوقف على	yatawaqqaf 'ala
If I have a good time, I'll stay. إذا كنت أتسلى جيدا، سأبقى	idhaa kuntu atasalla jayyidan, sa'abqaa
If this gets boring, I'll go home. إذا ضجرت، سأغادر	idhaa dajirt, sa-ughaadir
I'll help you to have a good time. سأساعدك لتتقضي وقتا جيدا	sa'usaa'iduka litaqqdii waqtan jamiilan
What's next? ماذا بعد ذلك؟	maadha ba'da dhaalik?
Shall we leave? هل نغادر؟	hal nughaadir?
Shall we go somewhere else? هل نذهب إلى مكان آخر؟	hal nadhhab ila makaanin aakhar?
Can my friends come? هل يستطيع أصدقائي أن يأتوا؟	hal yastaḡii' asdiqaa'ii an ya'tuu?
Where shall we go? إلى أين نذهب؟	ila ayna nadhhab?
What shall we do? ماذا نفعل؟	maadhāa naf'al?
It's up to you. حسب رغبتك	hasaba raghbatik
Anywhere's OK. أي مكان جيد	ayya makaanin jayyid
I'd like to stay here longer. أرغب في أن أبقى هنا لفترة أطول	arghabu fii an abqaa huna lifatra atwal

Don't go yet.

لا تذهب بعد

laa tad^hhab ba'd

Go later.

أذهب فيما بعد

id^hhab fiimaa ba'd

I'll take you home.

سأخذك إلى البيت

sa-aak^hud^huka ila l-bayt



Do you want to come to my place?

أتريد أن تأتي إلى بيتي؟

aturiidu an ta'ti ila baytii?

I'm not sure.

لست متأكدة

lastu muta'akkida

Just for coffee.

فقط لشرب القهوة

faqat lish^ur^ub l-qahwa

Yes, let's go.

نعم، هيا بنا

na'am, hayyaa binaa

Getting Serious

11

I want to know more about you.

أريد أن أعرفك أكثر

uriidu an a'rifaka akthar

Getting to know a potential partner (girlfriend / boyfriend) in terms of their background, family, work, etc. is essential before the relationship can become closer.

I want to know all about you.

أريد أن أعرف كل شيء عنك

uriidu an a'rifa kul shay' 'ank

I'll tell you.

سأقول لك

sa-aquulu laka

Shall we meet again?

هل ممكن أن نلتقي مرة أخرى؟

hal mumkin an naltaqya marra ukhraa?

When can I see you next time?

متى أستطيع أن أراك مرة أخرى؟

mata astatii' an araaka marra ukhraa?

May I call you?

هل ممكن أن أتصل بك؟

hal mumkin an attasila bik?

Calling someone at home is not always a straightforward issue if you have not been introduced to the family. This is especially true for calling girls at their home numbers.

May I have your phone number?

هل ممكن أن أحصل على رقم هاتفك؟

hal mumkin an ahsula 'ala raqim haatifik?

Here's my phone number.

هذا هو رقم هاتفي

haadha huwa raqim haatifi

Do you have something to write with?

هل لديك قلم؟

hal ladayka qalaman?

Will you call me?

هل ستصل بي؟

hal sa-tattaṣil bii?

I enjoyed myself.

لقد استمتعت كثيرا

laqad istamta'tu kathīran

It was fun.

كان مسليا

kaana musalliyan

Take care.

كن حذرا

kun ḥadhīran

See you later.

إلى اللقاء

ila al-liqaa'

See you tomorrow.

أراك غدا

araaka għadan

Hello.

مرحبا

marḥaban



Is Mary at home?

هل ماري في البيت؟

hal Mary fil-bayt?

Hold on please.

انتظر أرجوك

intazir arjuuk

Mary, telephone!

ماري تليفون!

Mary, tilifuun!

Mary is out.

ماري ليست هنا

Mary laysat hunaa

Please tell her I called.

أرجو أن تخبرها أنني إتصلت

arjuu an tukhbirhaa annanii
ittasalt.

This is Robert.

هذا روبرت

haadha Robert

Are you doing OK?

هل أنت على ما يرام؟

hal anta 'ala maa yuraam?

What have you been doing?

ماذا كنت تفعل؟

maadha kunta taf'al?

I've missed you.

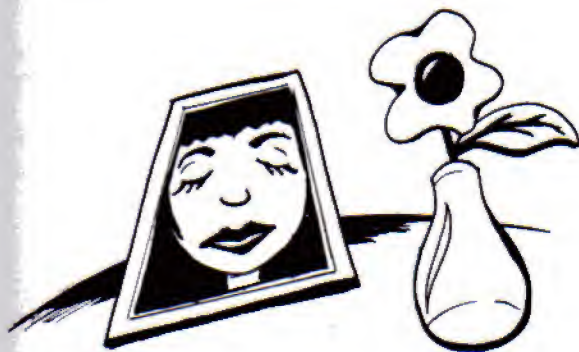
إشتقت إليك

ishtaqtu ilayk

I've been thinking of you.

كنت أفكر بك

kuntu ufakkiru bika



I want to see you.

أريد أن أراك

uriidu an araaka

Shall we meet now?

ممكن أن نلتقي الآن؟

mumkin an naltaqii al-aan?

I can't go out now.

laa astaṭīi' an akhruja ala'an

لا أستطيع أن أخرج الآن

Going out (for girls) can be a tricky affair as it has to be authorized by parents and / or other family members. However, if a group of friends are to go out together during reasonable hours, then it should not be a difficult occasion to organise.

I'll call you again.

sa-attaṣil bika marra ukhra

سأتصل بك مرة أخرى

I'll call you tomorrow at six o'clock.

sa-attaṣil bika għadan as-saa'a as-saadisa

سأتصل بك غدا الساعة السادسة

Please be in.

arjuuk kun fil-bayt

أرجوك كن في البيت

I'll write you a letter.

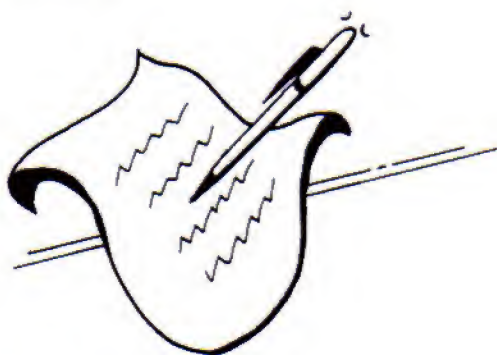
sa-aktub laka risaala

سأكتب لك رسالة

Will you write me a letter?

hal sataktub lii risaala?

هل ستكتب لي رسالة؟

**I'll call you from America.** sa-attaṣil bika min amriikaa

سأتصل بك من أمريكا

I'll call you when I return. sa-attaṣil bika 'indamaa a'uud

سأتصل بك عندما أعود؟

**I want to stay with you
forever.**

أريد أن أبقى معك للأبد

uriidu an abqaa ma'ak lil'abad

One more time?

مرة أخرى؟

marra ukhra?

The Other Side

13

Will you marry me?

هل تتزوجني / هل تتزوجيني؟

hal tatazawwajanii / hal

atatazawwajiinii?

Popping the question in the Arab world takes place formally at the family level. Nowadays, this follows a period of semi-formal dating / engagement which normally leads to marriage.



Let's get married.

هيا فلنتزوج

hayya fa-li-natazawwaj

I want to be your wife / husband.

أريد أن أكون زوجتك / زوجك

uriidu an akuuna zawjataka /
zawjaki

Will you come to America / Australia / Europe with me?

هل تأتين معي إلى أمريكا /
أستراليا / أوروبا؟

hal ta'tiina ma'ii ila amriikaa /
ustraaliya / urubaa?

Young people in the Arab world are not free to travel overseas unless this is sanctioned by their families and is specifically related to work, study or other family business.

I want to stay in this country.

أريد أن أبقى في هذا البلد

uriidu an abqaa fii haadha al-
balad

I don't want to leave my family.

لا أريد أن أترك عائلتي

laa uriidu an atruka 'aa'ilatii

I don't want to get married yet.

لا أريد أن أتزوج بعد

laa uriidu an atazawwaja ba'du

I don't want to get engaged yet.

لا أريد أن أخطب بعد

laa uriidu an akhtuba ba'du

I don't want to think about marriage yet.

لا أريد أن أفكر في الزواج بعد

laa uriidu an ufakkira fiz-zawaaj ba'du

I'm too young.

أنا صغير جدا في السن

anaa saghiir jiddan fi s-sinn

It's not time for me to get serious.

هذا ليس وقت الأمور الجدية

haadha laysa waqt al-umuur al-jiddiyya

I love you but I can't marry you.

أحبك لكن لا أستطيع أن أتزوجك

uhibbuka laakin laa astagii' an atazawwajak

I'm already married.

أنا متزوج

anaa mutazawwij

Married people (in particular women) do not enter in extra-marital affairs as this brings shame onto them and their families.

I need time to myself.

أحتاج وقتا لنفسي

ahtaaju waqtan linafsii



I need time to think.

أحتاج وقتاً لأفكر

ahtaaju waqtan li'ufakkir

This is so sudden.

هذا مفاجئ

haadha mufaaji'

We must think about this.

يجب أن نفكر بذلك

yajib an nufakkira bi-dhaalik

You don't love me any more, do you?

لم تعد تحبني أبداً، أليس هذا صحيحاً؟

lam ta'ud tuhibbunii abadan, alaysa haadha sahiihan?

Do you have another girlfriend / boyfriend?

هل لديك صديق آخر / صديقة أخرى؟

hal ladayka sadiiq aakhar / sadiiqa ukhraa?

Please tell me, I want to know.

أرجوك أخبرني، أريد أن أعرف

arjuuka akhbirnii, uriidu an a'rifa

Let's not see each other again.

لنتوقف عن رؤية بعضنا

li-natawaqqaf 'an ru'yat ba'dina

I can't see you anymore.

لا أستطيع أن أراك في المستقبل

laa astajji' an araak fii l-mustaqbal

I have another girlfriend / boyfriend.

عندي صديق آخر / صديقة أخرى

'indii sadiiq aakhar / sadiiqa ukhraa

I like you, but I don't love you anymore.

أنت تعجبني ولكنني لم أعد أحبك

anta tu'jibnii wa laakinnii lam a'ud uhibbuk

I'm not interested in you anymore.

لم يعد لدي أي اهتمام بك

lam ya'ud ladayya ayy ihtimaam bik.

Being with you is no fun. wujuudii ma'ak lam ya'ud
وجودي معك لم يعد مسليا
musalliyan.

You're boring! anta mumill!
أنت ممل

This is strong statement that indicates genuine dislike.

I hate you! akrahuka!
أكرهك

Same as above.

I'm not good for you. anaa ghayru munaasib lak.
أنا غير مناسب لك

This is a more acceptable way of indicating a break-up.

Forget about me. insaanii
انساني

I'm sorry it didn't work out. aasif li-ann al-mawduu' lam
يائتم

أسف لأن الموضوع لم يتم

It's over. intahaa al-mawduu'
إنتهى الموضوع



I won't call you any more. lan attasila bika ba'da al-aan
لن أتصل بك بعد الآن

Don't call me again.

لا تتصل بي بعد الآن

laa tataṣil bii ba'da al-aan

I'm going to change my phone number.

سوف أغير رقم هاتفي

sawfa ughayyir raqma haatifi

Don't be persistent.

لا تكن مصرا

laa takun muṣirran

Stop bothering me.

توقف عن ازعاجي

tawaqqaf 'an iza'aajii

It is an unacceptable offence to persist in calling a girl if she indicates that she does not want to continue the relationship. If the family becomes aware of such harassment then the consequences could be serious.

Get lost!

انصرف من هنا

inṣarif min hunaa!

I'm sorry I haven't been a good girlfriend / boy-friend.

أسف لأنني لم أكن صديق جيد

aasif li'anii lam akun ṣadiiqan jayyidan

It's my fault.

هذا خطئي

haadha khata'ii

Can't we start again?

ألا نستطيع أن نبدأ من جديد؟

alaa nastagii' an nabda'a min jadiid?

Forget it!

إنسى ذلك

insaa dhaalika!

I'm serious about you.

أنا أتكلم بجدية

anaa atakallam bijiddiya.

I can't live without you.

لا أستطيع أن أعيش بدونك

laa astagii'u an a'iisha biduunik

Please understand my feelings.

أرجوك تفهم مشاعري

arjuuka tafahham maṣḥaa'irii

I'll miss you.

سأشتاق إليك

sa-ashtaaqu ilayk

I'll never forget you.

لن أنساك أبدا

lan ansaak abadan.

Thanks for the beautiful memories.

أشكرك على الذكريات الجميلة

ashkuruk 'alaa adh-dhikrayaat
al-jamiila.

I'm so happy to have known you.

أنا سعيد جدا لأنني عرفتكَ

anaa sa'iidun jiddan li'annii
'araftuk

Remember me some-times.

تذكرني بين الحين والآخر

tadhakkarnii bayn l-hiin wa l-aakhar.

Can we still be friends?

هل ممكن أن نبقى أصدقاء؟

hal mumkin an nabqaa
asdiqaa'?

Be happy with her / him.

أتمنى لك السعادة معه / أتمنى لك
السعادة معها

atamanna laka as-saa'ada
ma'ahaa / atamanna laki as-
saa'ada ma'ahu.

I'll always think of you.

سأتذكرك دائما

sa-atadhakaruk daa'iman

I'll always love you.

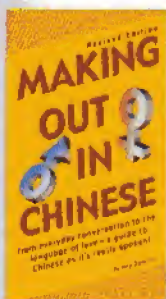
سأحبك دائما

sa-uhibbuk daa'iman

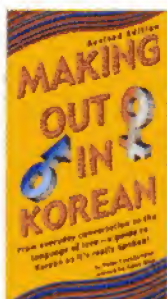


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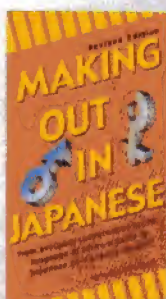
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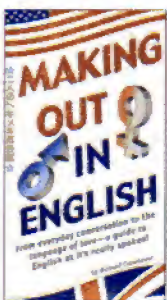
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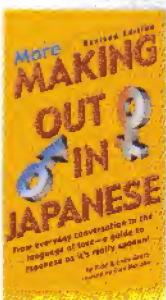
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